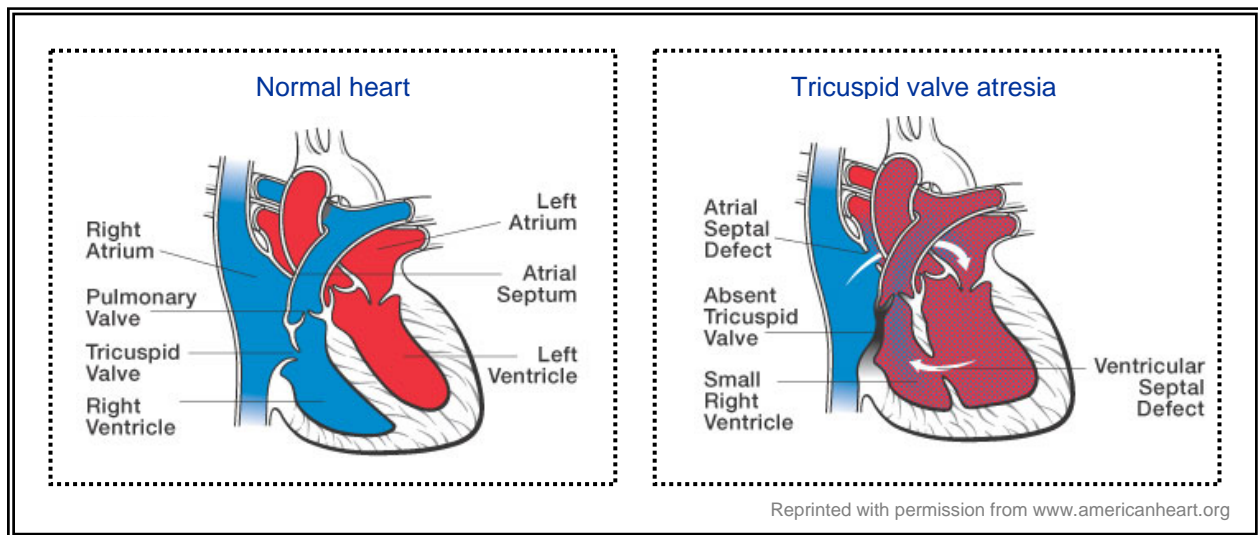


# Tricuspid Valve Atresia

## What is tricuspid valve atresia?

Tricuspid valve atresia is a narrowing or blockage of the **tricuspid valve** (opening between the upper and lower chambers of the right side of the heart). As a result, the **right ventricle** (lower chamber) is small and not fully developed. Most babies with tricuspid valve atresia survive because they also have an **atrial septal defect** (opening in the wall between the two upper chambers, also called an ASD) and a **ventricular septal defect** (opening in the wall between the two lower chambers, also called a VSD). Some blood flows through the ASD and mixes with oxygen-rich blood from the lungs before being sent to the body. The rest of the blood flows through the VSD into the right ventricle and the lungs.

Approximately 1 – 2% of all babies with congenital (present at birth) heart defects have tricuspid valve atresia.



## What causes tricuspid valve atresia?

Currently, the exact cause of tricuspid valve atresia is not known. Heredity likely plays a role in the development of all heart defects, meaning that if someone had a congenital heart defect, he or she has an increased chance of having a child with a heart defect.

## How is tricuspid valve atresia treated?

There are several treatment options available, including surgery and shunting (providing an alternative pathway for the blood to flow). Your child's doctor(s) will discuss appropriate treatment options with you.

## For more information

American Heart Association - <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=11105>

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center's Heart Center Encyclopedia –

<http://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/health/heart-encyclopedia/default.htm>

MedlinePlus - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/congenitalheartdefects.html>

National Heart Lung and Blood Institute - [http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/dci/Diseases/chd/chd\\_what.html](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/dci/Diseases/chd/chd_what.html)

**Sources:** Cincinnati Children's Hospital, American Heart Association